

2019-2020

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The 11th regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Meeting occurred on March 5th, 2020 at 3:45pm in ADUC 326

The following documents relevant to this meeting are available on the MSU Faculty Senate (FS) Blackboard (BB) shell:

- Minutes from FS Meeting Feb 20, 2020
- CCL Makerspace powerpoint presentation
- SGA presentation regarding a proposed Book-Share program
- Proposed Ad Hoc Committee on Grant Implementation
- Resolution to Explore Efficiencies – 1st Reading
- Resolution to Dissolve Planning committee – 2nd Reading
- Information on current Planning committee duties
- Proposed FYS committee – 2nd Reading

These announcements were made by Chair Lennex to start the meeting.

- The Faculty Regent Election is ongoing, if you have not yet voted, you will be reminded every 2 days. Once you vote, you will no longer get the reminders. Voting: Feb 28 – Mar 6.
- The Faculty Senate Committee Preference Survey will be open March 1 – March 13th.
- The reporting link for issues regarding Quicklinks (the top right) on the MSU website is: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RKg1YTufJEUQIK5_fM9slippzI_VOBEdDgJpoXYweQIBUNThLQ1ZXS0c5NFFQR1IKQU01NkhPTFI0SS4u . We think the issue with the “refresh your browser issue” is fixed. Email April Nutter if you see any specific issues in order to diagnose problems and resolve with vendor. This reporting survey will be open Feb 27 to March 13.
- Textbook Orders due March 31 to Traci Webster.

President's Report- no report; attending Posters at the Capital.

Provost's Report – no report; attending the Posters at the Capital.

Guest – Senator Rodney Watkins: CCL Makerspace

Senator Watkins spoke about the CCL Makerspace which is open to the MSU community at-large. The Makerspace is located in the old Java City space within the library. The focus for the project is on STEM/STEAM or soft sciences, however it can be used by anyone. According to Watkins, anything you can build in real life, you can print in plastic first. The target audience includes: Students, Professors/Instructors, Administrators, and the Community.

So, how do you use it? According to Watkins’ powerpoint, drop off your file in person at the Camden-Carroll Library (CCL) room 104, or Submit it online. It needs to be a .stl file. The cost is 2 cents per gram and the printer contains a program to determine cost. Patrons are required to pay before they receive the product or service with BeakerBucks. The CCL is still working out a few kinks for formal opening, but it is available right now for faculty as a “soft opening”.

Watkins actually recommended that faculty come and check it out so that he might have some extra opportunities to work out the process. Lennex: if this is new to you, a place to start is Tinkercad (Link: <https://www.tinkercad.com>).

Guest – Colby Birkes, SGA: Book-Share discussion

Colby Birkes, President of SGA talked to FS about a concern MSU students have regarding the cost of textbooks. As Birk reminded us, students at MSU are at a greater risk of not having the financial support for textbooks. His recommendation, or “ask” from FS was for ideas to create a place where students can donate their textbooks for use by students in need. The unknown he needed to hear about from FS was: What department, or who should be in charge of this? And how could this be implemented? There were plenty of suggestions and comments as noted below:

Senator Grupe noted to FS that there are some websites where textbooks can be accessed for free. In many instances, the free textbook is an older copy, but can be used.

Senator Long stated that he was sympathetic to the financial issues and recommended that someone create a spreadsheet of classes and books. He also encouraged that someone see if faculty would be willing to share instructor copies in an accessible location.

Senator Prindle offered support for using open resource and used textbooks as resources.

Senator Watkins told FS that the Library has been looking at open access as a means to help faculty use books that are available online. He noted that meetings are starting to happen and inquired if anyone was interested in helping? Also, the library has books on reserve in the library, but would they would like to be able to add more.

Senator Blankenship said that she puts reserve copies of her textbooks in the library, but students do not go to the library to use it.

Senator Kmetz said that in his research with faculty, a stumbling block was that a lot of open source textbooks are available, but they don’t have instructor resources with them. If testbanks and other resources were available from the open source community, that might help.

Senator LaFleur completed the discussion by noting that professors in the Seminary where he attended were inclined to not to require books, but to give lecture notes. He also encouraged faculty and student collaboration to create course materials.

Faculty Regent Report- Regent Adams
Board of Regents update:

“The BOR met at MSU Mt. Sterling on February 27, 2020. The meeting was broken into two parts: (1) a special called meeting, where the BOR could act on pressing matters and (2) the regularly scheduled work session, where no official action is taken.

In the special called meeting, the BOR approved:

- The sale of the Procurement building (the disposition of this surplus property will give MSU \$1.7m to apply to debt reduction)
- A revised version of PG-6 (the policy on sexual harassment) that was updated to more clearly comply with current law
- The naming of the College of Education (so named for education super donors, the Volgenaus)

In the work session, President Morgan gave the BOR some preliminary enrollment numbers, updates on KERS costs, notification on active legislation in general, and some university planning.

Of most interest to faculty:

- Preliminary figures (which do not include Eagle Scholars or half term classes) look steady. Total head count is 8,376 (7,723 UG, 653 G). FTE is 6,080 (5,734 UG, 346 G). Our retention numbers are good: fall to spring is 89% overall; URM rate is 93.3% and Low-income rate is 89.2%.
- It is not economically viable for MSU to exist KERS via a “buy out.” According to Dr. Morgan, it’s not really feasible for any institution save perhaps NKU. We do not yet know what the KERS rates will be—figures vary from 49% (or current rate) to 167% (the rate in HB 171) and there are other figures in between (such as the 93% that will be a default, should HB 171 fail and no other action be taken). If rates go above 60%, we will have to use reserve dollars in 20-21 until we can shed more KERS costs. Rough estimates of increased annual costs associated with defined rates:
 - 83%: \$1.7-1.8m
 - 93%: \$2+m
 - 167%: \$5m
- Other noteworthy legislative information:
 - We may be able to receive \$1 for every 50 cents we pay in asset preservation (note: does not apply to auxiliary assets like dorms)
 - The Governor wishes to add 1% to base funding and freeze the performance funding model
 - A Craft Academy Expansion could get us anywhere from \$329k to \$658k
- Debt reduction remains an important goal for the President. The slides we saw in Senate were presented to the BOR. The ultimate goal (as Dr. Morgan also noted in Senate) is to get our debt burden to a manageable \$7m annual payment.
- The President would like to use select prepayments to help manage debt while we optimize performance funding metrics. If we adjust the budget this year to pay (at a reduced rate) known expenses for upcoming years, we will save money while we up our

student service spending (Dr. Morgan has specifically highlighted payments that can count in “student services,” which factor into the “direct cost of educating students” in the performance funding model).

- Tuition and fees will increase for most students. We’re looking at a 2-2.5% increase for UGs, a one dollar increase in the asset preservation fee (so \$6 vs, \$5) and a 1% increase (to the nearest dollar) in course fees.
 - Graduate tuition is exempt from this increase. Our tuition is already very high compared to most of our peers, so we’re freezing most tuition. In the case of tuition for Masters degrees in the COE, we’ll actually be reducing rates, from \$570 per credit hour to \$374. We’re taking this “gamble” because we’re losing our access to schools in the region. We need teachers, superintendents, and principals to be Eagles to help ensure our undergrad pipeline.
- The President is exploring employee compensation options:
 - *Option #1:* a one-time payment (distributing the what’s left of the KERS savings we had this year [note: we had to dip into that pool to pay for the chiller that went out])
 - *Option #2:* a one-time supplement for employees that have been here one year and a small base adjustment for long-term employees
- An overhaul of the website is coming. Our current contract ends in Summer of 2021, by which time we will be through without SACSCOC visit. That will be a golden opportunity to overhaul the site.”

Staff Congress Report-

No report

General Education Revision Implementation Report— Regent Adams passed to Dr. Sue Tallichet to provide the report.

Dr. Tallichet reported that she once again finds herself chairing this committee and provided this report as emailed to the Communications Officer:

Progress:

We have recently gotten our materials and information together and uploaded them on our shared site created by Sara Larson.

- Dr. Adams and I are facilitating the SLO rubrics’ finalization.
- SLO rubrics #1, 2, 3 and 5 are finished thanks to Dr. Adams.
- SLO rubrics #4 and #8 are exclusive to the Natural Sciences gen ed courses. So Dr. Adams and I met with Dean Wayne Miller to help coordinate these efforts. We are close to finalizing these rubrics.
- SLO rubrics #6 and #7 are for HUM Level 2 courses. We are coming to a consensus on #6 and are still working on the #7 SLO rubric.
- We will be beginning work on SLOs #9 and #10 rubrics shortly.
- Dr. Couch has called a meeting for next Monday at 4pm.

Discussion:

- First, I would like to counter any rumors that you may have been hearing. The State is **not** taking over Gen Ed and any problems we were having were internal. However, faculty are now pushing forward to finalize gen ed reform.
- Second, I would also like to address concerns over the finalizing of the SLO rubrics. The rubrics are NOT meant to change what we are currently doing in our gen ed classes. The only new element is the common assessment in order to assess student performance. We have never had a common assessment instrument. That is all that is new.

The new assessment is not nor should it be guiding what you currently do. Rather the rubrics should be flexible in order to assess what we are already doing in our gen ed classes. Let me stress that that we will be streamlining assessment. We want this process to be led by faculty which is why we are soliciting their feedback in order to get the rubrics in shape. We will do all we can to reduce the assessment burden on faculty. Our next step after getting feedback on the rubrics will be to work out the logistics for assessment reporting. Later, we will ask for your feedback about this process as well.

General Education Report- no report. The next meeting will occur next week.

FS Committee Reports*Executive Council-Chair Lennex*

Lennex brought forward a proposal for an *Ad Hoc Committee on Grant Implementation*. During the February 6th FS meeting, Regent Adams and Senator Grupe presented an open forum session that looked at potential revenue streams: Athletic ticket sales and grant writing. As a result of the conversation that ensued regarding grant writing, an ad hoc committee that was encouraged to meet regularly, make recommendations, and consult with the FS President was formed. The first meeting, an organizational meeting will occur in Spring 2020 with a report from the committee on grant implementation impediments expected in December. The end date for the ad hoc committee will be April 10, 2021.

Committee membership is to include:

Dirk Grupe
Michael Hail
Katy Carlson
Janelle Hare
Kouroush Jenab
Bill Grise
Daryl Privott
Shana Savard-Hogge

Approval for the ad hoc committee passed.

Academic Issues-Chair Grupe

Grupe reported that the committee met last week. Discussed the QEP Implementation by way of discussing the creation of a committee. The big discussion was around creation of a

committee to oversee the implementation. This committee will rotate people in and out and it will be a committee that impacts the process and involves the whole campus. Curriculum changes, providing a route for students to get gold star status, and other aspects of placing HIP's in your classes will go through this committee. Senator Hare (and a few others) shared that he was concerned about creating yet another committee. While Grupe noted that he too shared that concern, he saw this as a very important piece of the QEP. Senator Tuerk noted that students can already get a gold star from the Honors Program, so he wondered if this would interfere with the QEP plan. Senator Schack asked if this will this be a standing committee where Governance has oversight? Grupe said that in his conversations, that yes, the recommendation (per Couch and O'Brien) was for it to be a standing committee. Chair Lennex noted that the QEP still needs to be voted on. Regent Adams cautioned FS that while she agrees that we do not need more committees to serve on, there absolutely needs to be a way for faculty assurance that they have input in curriculum development and a say in curricular decision-making.

Evaluation-Chair Long

Long reported that the committee now has all the information needed in order to finalize surveys for faculty to do dean evaluations, it is now in the hands of the Provost. A report will be submitted to the Provost that summarizes the work of this committee so the Provost will be able to refer to the White paper and keep the process intact.

Long also talked about the "tumor-like" pace of the committee to assess the evaluation and job description of hybrid faculty. A report to FS is expected mid-April.

Faculty Welfare & Concerns- Chair Sharp

Sharp presented the *Resolution on the efficiencies of faculty performance reporting and the promotion of the reputation of MSU through faculty scholarly and creative activities*. This was presented as a 1st Reading. The resolution is available for viewing in the FS BB. The basis of this resolution was to examine tools to support and enhance faculty research/creative capacity via a web-based modality that provides a comprehensive faculty profile. A piece of this resolution was to phase out Faculty 180. Sharp indicated that a big reason the committee wished to get rid of 180 was because it is not robust enough to effectively promote faculty and it is not accessible to the public. She provided a demonstration of a module called *Elements* used by the University of Tennessee. Faculty can review the UT Elements Faculty Profile at: <https://faculty.utk.edu>. Enter the Faculty name: Rearden to access an example of the faculty page.

Email friendly amendments (FA) to Chair Sharp prior to Wednesday at 4:30pm.

Senator Kmetz inquired how much money is spent on Faculty 180? Sharp responded "we do not know".

*Governance-Chair Graves*Resolution to dissolve Planning committee – 2nd Reading

Regent Adams and Senator Hare responded that they were not in favor in getting rid of the Planning Committee. Both agreed that the committee does need to work more effectively and more purposefully. Lennex told FS that at her best guess, the committee had not functioned since 2012. There was concern that the committee had been working more on implementation rather than planning. Senator Schack noted that by eliminating the Planning Committee, then there was no fall back for strategic planning committees. Senator Hare recited a motion to table the resolution to dissolve the Planning Committee until it can be discussed in the EC to come up with solutions to ensure that faculty to be involved in strategic decision-making.

Motion passed. The resolution was rejected and sent to the EC to explore strategic options and bring back to the FS.

FYS committee – 2nd Reading. Graves reported on the make-up of the proposed FYS committee that will include 8 members: 7 faculty and 1 chair. Per friendly amendments and committee revision, they changed the committee terminology for teaching faculty and students taking the courses. A question Graves asked was if they should earmark one faculty per college? It was felt that this was not needed because it is a standing committee and the FS Governance will be plugging in the committee members. Another question asked was whether the committee should have the charge to develop and deliver training—is this over stepping the purview of the committee? No longer money to incentivize the position of FYS faculty.

Parliamentarian Chatham stepped in noted that it was 5:34pm, do we want a motion to extend the meeting to include discussion on this topic? A motion to increase the time was approved.

Regent Adams provided a thank you to FS for reasserting faculty control of the curriculum. There was quite a bit of discussion, which essentially all agreed with the need for faculty involvement with FYS.

Senator Long indicated that a problem he saw was that people who were anxious in their teaching were not getting feedback or encouragement regarding their teaching. Hopefully, this will be addressed.

FA Senator Schack: strike on line 137 “~~When possible~~”. Motion agreed.

FA Senator Hare and Regent Adams: line 8 “*to review and recommend policies and regulations to the FS and to other relevant stakeholders pertaining to*”.

Amended 2nd reading: approved.

New Business-none

Next meeting: April 2 in ADUC 326 at 3:45pm (Dr. Dirk Grupe chairing the meeting)

Submitted by:

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Jenny Dearden, 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Communications Officer